

**Private Lunch to the Rotary Club of Manila
Main Lounge, Manila Polo Club**

Good afternoon to everyone... *“Magandang tanghali sa inyong lahat.”*

Thank you for inviting me here today. It is an honor to address the longest operating Rotary Club in Asia. As many of you know, I come from a large, close-knit family, and Rotary has been a big part of our community. My cousin, Mildred Wallace-Chenoweth, has been a leader in her Rotary Club in New York City for years, and we are always hearing about the opportunity Rotary provides for people of all races, genders and religions to excel.

We all know that the Rotary Club of Manila and other civic associations around the world have a long list of good deeds that they can proudly cite. I am happy to note that the U.S. government is a partner in Rotary's good works here in the Philippines. Together, five Rotary Clubs are partnering with USAID to bring clean, safe water to families in five different communities across the country. This is the first step in what I hope will be a long and productive partnership.

Rotary members are great leaders who couple strong business skills with a deep commitment to the community. I am also glad to tell you that a Rotary leader from Cotabato, Bai Sandra Basar, was one of two representatives from the Philippines who met with

President Obama to discuss entrepreneurship. She is a pioneer businesswoman in Mindanao who I think perfectly represents the spirit and values of Rotary.

It falls to me now to ask your help. As a father, as a brother, as an Ambassador, I am horrified by the cruelty inflicted on those vulnerable individuals who become victims of trafficking. No one is immune from the risk of exploitation. The very young, the very poor, the very hopeless are most susceptible to being robbed of their freedom. The Philippines and the United States are strengthening their partnership to prevent trafficking, to prosecute traffickers, and to protect survivors – but we could use your help. There are many wonderful non-governmental organizations working on this cause –

please consider supporting them. There are many ways businesses can work to ensure their facilities or services aren't being exploited by criminals – become one of them. There are many survivors of trafficking who need a helping hand – please consider extending yours. *Kung sama-sama, kayang-kaya.*

Rotarians are people of principle. They are leaders of vision. They are people of action. I am eager to be your partner in stopping trafficking, but also in building a better future. This is a time of hope in the Philippines, of possibility. I promise you that we share that hope, we are committed to doing what is possible, and we are willing partners in doing the work today that means a better future tomorrow.

Thank you for all that you do. *Maraming salamat.*